

March 2006

# Steaming Ahead



[www.scmes.freemove.co.uk](http://www.scmes.freemove.co.uk)

**March** and already the track team have built all the remaining panels ready for laying. We have provisionally booked the week ends 9th & 16th April **YOUR HELP IS NEEDED** please allocate some time over these week ends if only a couple of hours it all

helps. Would the person who removed the Walker Midgeley Barr/Litres book from the clubhouse please return it ASAP Are any members be interested in Steaming /running on Saturdays for your self or for

the Public your comments please. At the request of some members we will now include a full list of events in the news letter, but it is a moving target so may be amended every month.

**Monday evening working party March on 7.00pm** please come if only to make the tea for the rest of us

### Club News in Brief:

- Recruitment drive for new members watch the press
- Track bending and panel assembly team have now made all the remaining track ready to be laid
- Help to make parts for new rolling stock we still need more volunteers please.

## Events This Month—March

**Tuesday 28th March** Wylde Green Library  
Derek Brown—Drill Sharpening

### New Members

The following application for membership were approved by the board on Tuesday 7th March

Gordon Batchelor (with a 7¼  
Black Five see page 3)

### Dates for Your Diary

April 28th 150 Years of Foden Engineering-

Norman Smedley-WGL

May 21st Model Works Owners Rally -Balleny Green

June 13th AGM - Wylde Green Library

June 30th, 1st & 2nd July-Diesel Weekend

Aug 6th 2½ Rally -Balleny Green

Aug 13th Garden Party - Baleny Green

# This news letter will only work with your input

## Tuesday Evenings at Wylde Green

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March – Drill Sharpening by Derek Brown

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April – 150 years of Foden Engineering by Norman Smedley.

We have two Tuesday Night speakers who would like to use a digital projector & computer to illustrate their talks in power point. Does any member have such equipment that they would be prepared to let them use on those nights? Please let me know if you can help in this matter. Carol Whitson (01543) 675852.

**NO OFFERS !!!**  
**ANYBODY PLEASE ??**

## Steaming through Sutton Park

Hi

Duly arrived on time thanks to tip from Peter Mc (2) the level crossing by Streetly gate in Sutton Park. Despite the rain there were 4 other cameras there ready and waiting for the steam engine to present itself, on time too 10.00 am Friday 30 Dec.

First I take a picture of a passing every day Diesel (I think)... yes digits



are all in order.

Switch off to preserve battery and put camera and hands in pocket to keep in working order and out of the

rain. An excited word comes from one with BINOCULARS "a light and steam" ... 2 miles down the straightest laid bit of Victorian track in the country! IT IS HERE Complete with a good whistle.

Camera switched on.. flash off .. select distance, I was ready.... What a slow train it was taking ages.... Nearly here... Ready? NO the camera has switched off on BATTERY SAVE MODE!!! Hell cameras are firing off all around me and mine is switched off! Patience it will come on again... Well not quite a disaster, I photographed the only part of the train everyone else missed... THE LAST COACHES, well there was a bit of steam and smoke, and coming from somewhere else !!

Peter the penny farthing man



### **Subscriptions for the year April 2006-April 2007**

Full Member	£52.00
OAP Member	£40.00
Associate Member	£15.00
Junior Member	£11.00

Please note subscriptions are due by 31st March 2006

## Boiler Inspectors

Colin Davis  
0121 351 4681

Peter McMillan  
0121 308 2957

Stan Jones  
01827 63983

Barry Kefford  
0121 350 5743

Richard (Dick) Smith  
01827 12758

Neal Harrison  
0121 378 3992

N.B. Should you require the services of a boiler inspector, please contact one beforehand. Please do not simply arrive at the ground and assume that there will be one available.

## Wylde Green

Tuesday 28th February.

Laser Cutting by Malcolm High, a very informative night with a lot interest shown by those who attended (21). The use of modern technology for people who work full time takes a lot of the mundane work out of construction, is possibly more accurate and saves a lot of time as long as the price is right.

Contact Details for Malcolm

Phone 01302 721611

[www.modelengineerslaser.co.uk](http://www.modelengineerslaser.co.uk)

### **Copy dates for future news letters:-**

Tuesday 28th March for April

Tuesday 25th April for May

Tuesday 30th May for June

Tuesday 27th June for July

## **This Months Quote:**

Not everything that can be counted counts, and not everything that counts can be counted.

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## Have you sent any comment or requests ????

### **7¼ Black Five belongs to our new member Gordon Batchelor**



### **FEBRUARY 2006 TUESDAY "HORT" TEAM AND LOTTERY NOTES**

Whilst the weather has been very cold the last couple of weeks we've had some dry Tuesdays when we could get on with tidying up the site. The first mowing was completed on Tuesday 21st Feb and a large amount of leaves cleared at the same time. We've also taken the opportunity to attend to the water containers around the tracks, including new slab bases for some. A number of them are in a poor condition and or have split due to the ageing effect of UV sunlight and will be replaced.

When you come down to the club I hope you will agree that, for such an early time of the year, the site is looking very good. By the time you read this the first daffodils will be out, the bluebells are close behind and if you look very closely you can see the new shoots on the hedges. The hedges are in good condition and have thickened up greatly since we completed laying them 2 years ago. They will continue to improve this year and with the possible exception of the front hedge, will not require any attention other than trimming.

The hedges down the left hand side of the site do not belong to us and the owner refuses to let us attend to them or do anything himself. We have cut them back to the boundary and therefore, taken the opportunity to encourage new growth where possible but it's an almost impossible task in places, the car park area for example. Hedging

work is only possible for part of the year and has to cease completely over the next three to four months to ensure that the wild life remains undisturbed as far as possible.

We are on top of the ground work for the moment and it has allowed some of the team to turn their attention to clearing out the forth and third bays of the Maintenance Store. There is a growing assortment of bits and pieces behind the Maintenance Store and you are welcome to anything you can carry away, but please check with George Weedon that it's not anything temporarily outside. The new powered push mowers and tractors are definitely not included.

Clearing the bays has become even more urgent with the arrival of a lawn tractor kindly donated by Michael Brophy. Whilst it is not a new machine it has saved the society a substantial amount of valuable capital, around £2,500, which we would otherwise have had to spend. A slightly older version of our existing mower but with a more powerful twin engine and Mike, without ceremony, put it through its paces. Thank you Mike on behalf of the Tuesday Team and in particular the Society.

It takes up floor space and I make no excuses for reminding you that *"It would be helpful if the items stored in the Maintenance Store were identifiable to a society event, purpose, person or project otherwise they are likely to be removed and scrapped/burnt"* and *"Before you donate anything, commence any project or purchase anything on behalf of the society you should, where-ever possible, discuss the matter with George Weedon, Jim Hill, or any of the other directors"*.

The 'old tractor' is now functioning well with a new battery (but without cutters) and will be employed assisting the laying of new track and moving materials round the site. If anyone has an old Lucas type battery isolating switch in their garage and could spare it, it would be very useful and save taking the

power lead off the tractor battery each time after use.

On the Lottery side of the activities, the first carriage arrived in time for James Birthday Party and proved itself throughout the party, even with five well padded members on board. I wrote to the Heritage Lottery Fund, Awards for All at the start of February bringing them up to date with progress and enclosing photographs showing the first carriage ready for testing.

If you would like to be associated with the project and can provide assistance manufacturing bits it would be of significant help (material provided) --- please speak to Steve Whitson, Gary Tyso, Stephen Hodgetts or myself. Your assistance will ensure that we have the benefit of these new carriages sooner rather than later in the season and help demonstrate to the HLF the society's commitment.

With all the Christmas activities over, work has recommenced on the laying of new track as well as the carriages. If you can assist on Sundays (10.30 - onwards) or Monday evenings (from about 7.00pm) we would be pleased to see you.

The last panels of the new section of track, agreed at the AGM last year, should be in place shortly and then thoughts need to turn to the next stage. There is a suggestion to extend the inner ground level track to the junction behind the bonfire. This, with repositioned point work, will remove the current problems of conflicting movements on the bank up the 'goat hedge' side. The idea is good and would give around another 100/150ft of run on the inner ground level track, enabling the outer ground level track ('goat hedge' bank) to be replaced at a later date without interfering greatly with normal running.

Finally, I would like to start thinking about the possibility of going for a further grant application. If you have any preferences or suggestions and would like to be involved please let me know. E-mail address "janded@blueyonder.co.uk".

*Eric Davies*

**PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS & EVENTS FOR 2006**  
**(All Tuesday Evening meetings start at 7:45pm unless otherwise indicated)**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Subject / Title</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Venue</u>
Sun 26th Mar 2006	Birthday Party		BG
<b>Tue 28th Mar 2006</b>	<b>Drill Sharpening</b>	<b>Derek Brown</b>	<b>WGL</b>
Sun 2nd Apr 2006	Birthday Party First Sunday of the month Steam-Up	(10:00am onwards)	BG
<b>8th,9th,15th,16th Apr</b>	<b>Track Laying (provisional booking)</b>		
<b>Tue 25th Apr 2006</b>	<b>150 Years of Foden Engineering</b>	<b>Norman Smedley</b>	<b>WGL</b>
Mon 1st May 2006	Bank Holiday Steam Up	(10:00am onwards)	BG
Sun 14th May 2006	Birthday Party		BG
Sun 21st May 2006	Model Works - Owners Rally		BG
Mon 29th May 2006	Bank Holiday Steam Up	(10:00am onwards)	BG
Sun 4th Jun 2006	First Sunday of the month Steam-Up	(10:00am onwards)	BG
<b>Tue 13th Jun 2006</b>	<b>Annual General Meeting</b>		<b>WGL</b>
Sun 25th Jun 2006	Two Birthday Party's 11.00-1.00 & 3.00-5.00		<b>BG</b>
<b>Fri 30th June- Sun 2nd Jul</b>	Diesel Weekend		<b>BG</b>
Sun 2nd Jul 2006	First Sunday of the month Steam-Up	(10:00am onwards)	BG
Thu 20th Jul 2006	Sutton Coldfield Railway Society visit to Balleny Green	(7:00pm onwards)	BG
Sun 6th Aug 2006	National 2½" Gauge Association Rally		BG
Sun 20th Aug 2006	Birthday Party		BG
Mon 28th Aug 2006	Bank Holiday Steam Up	(10:00am onwards)	BG
Sun Sep 3rd 2006	Kids West Midlands		BG
Sun 1st Oct 2006	First Sunday of the month Steam-Up	(10:00am onwards)	BG
Sat 11th Nov 2006	Bonfire Night		BG
Sun 3rd Dec 2006	Santa Special I		BG
Sun 10th Nov 2006	Santa Special II		BG
Tue 26th Dec 2006	Boxing Day Steam-Up	(10:00am onwards)	BG
Mon 1st Jan 2007	New Year's Day Steam-Up	(10:00am onwards)	BG